

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PER-01 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01

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P R 101217Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8869

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: AMGT, CD

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE ON DECEMBER 7 AT 3:30 P.M. THE PRESENTATION HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE PREVIOUS DAY BUT WAS POSTPONED OWING TO THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS TO STUDY THE GOC PROGRAM FOR INCREASING DOMESTIC COTTON PRODUCTION BY 500 PERCENT. BOTH IN HIS FORMAL REMARKS AND IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE MEETING TOMBALBAYE WAS FRIENDLY AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO RECENT DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM HIS REACTION TO U.S. PRESS TREATMENT OF GRAIN DISTRIBUTION OR OF YONDOH.

2. MY REMARKS WERE THOSE REPORTED IN NDJAMENA 2975 AND PARIS 27887. THE PRESIDENT OPENED HIS RESPONSE WITH WORDS OF WELCOME AND AN EXPRESSION OF WARM REGARD FOR FORMER AMBASSADOR MULCAHY. KEYING HIS REMARKS TO MY OWN, THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO CHAD, NOTING THAT IT IS THE "SOLE HOPE" OF THE CHADIAN PEOPLE, AND STRESSED THE GOAL OF ORGANIZING 1.5 MILLION PEASANTS TO PRODUCE 750,000 TONS OF COTTON ANNUALLY. HE STATED THAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS MUST BE BASED ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THAT THE "NEW CHAD" WOULD NOT CONSIST OF MOSLEMS AGAINST CHRISTIANS OR AGAINST ANIMISTS, NOR OF
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NORTHERNERS AND SOUTHERNERS, BUT SIMPLY OF CHADIANS UNIFIED BY

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION. TURNING TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, PRESIDENT SAID IN WORLD OF CRISES SMALL NATIONS OF ASIA AND AFRICA ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE AND THAT US, "WHICH HAS AS ITS EMBLEM THE FLAME OF LIBERTY", HAS IN ITS POWER THE CAPABILITY TO COLLABORATE WITH COUNTRIES AND MEN OF GOOD WILL TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS ON WHICH PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF MANKIND DEPEND. PRESIDENT FORD, HE CONTINUED, IS ALREADY FOLLOWING THIS POLICY AND ALL IN CHAD FOLLOW WITH INTEREST AND HOPE THE FELICITOUS INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY PRESIDENT FORD FOR INTERNATIONAL DETENTE. PRESIDENT ASKED THAT HIS OWN BEST WISHES AND THOSE OF PEOPLE OF CHAD BE TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT FORD FOR THE SUCCESS OF HIS POLICIES. FULL TEXT OF BOTH STATEMENTS WILL BE POUCHED.

3. FOLLOWING HIS AND MY FORMAL STATEMENTS, THE PRESIDENT TOOK ME INTO HIS ADJOINING PRIVATE OFFICE WHERE WE HAD A FRIENDLY TWENTY MINUTE CONVERSATION. THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH WAS PRINCIPALLY TONAL BUT WHICH WILL SERVE TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR LATER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WHEN NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF GRAIN DISTRIBUTION BUT I MENTIONED -- LOOKING TO THE FUTURE -- PRESENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE US ASSISTANCE IN RELIEF AND REHABILITATION AREAS. I REFERRED TO FEBRUARY 1974 AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS

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NOTED THAT WE HAD COMMITTED DOLS 2 MILLION OF ASSISTANCE UNDER THAT AGREEMENT, AND SAID THAT THERE WAS SOME POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. I SAID THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH HIS MINISTRIES ON THESE QUESTIONS. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION OF THIS HELP BUT MADE NO OTHER COMMENT. HE DID MENTION THAT THE PRINCIPAL EFFORT OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN THE ECONOMIC AREA WAS DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PARTICULARLY INCREASED PRODUCTION OF COTTON AND CEREALS.

4. THE PRESIDENT ASKED HOW PRESIDENT FORD WAS FARING. I RESPONDED THAT HE HAD A VERY DIFFICULT JOB IN VIEW OF THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OUR COUNTRY HAD FACED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE CHANGE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE WAS DIFFICULT AT BEST BUT THE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN AGGRAVATED BY THE GROWING CONCERN OVER A RECESSION IN THE US. I SAID THAT THIS LIKELY WOULD RESULT IN REDUCED BUDGETS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUT THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON I HAD NOT DETECTED ANY REDUCTION IN OUR SINCERE INTEREST IN HELPING THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. I ADDED THAT I HAD OBSERVED RECENTLY A GROWING INTEREST IN AFRICA, PARTLY STIMULATED BY THE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM OF THE DROUGHT IN THE SAHEL.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S MENTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF

EXPLOITING PETROLEUM IN CHAD, I SAID THAT I HAD STOPPED IN LONDON ENROUTE TO NDJAMENA AND HAD TALKED THERE WITH OFFICIALS OF CONOCO. HE SPOKE HIGHLY OF THEM AND I SAID THEY IN TURN APPRECIATED THE BALANCED STATEMENT THE PRESIDENT HAD ISSUED IN OCTOBER FOLLOWING AN OPTIMISTIC REPORT FROM CONOCO ON POSSIBLE PETROLEUM RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY. I SAID THAT IF PETROLEUM IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES WERE FOUND THIS COULD BRING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO CHAD, ADDING THAT, AS THE PRESIDENT NO DOUBT KNEW, EVEN THEN CONSIDERABLE TIME MUST ELAPSE BEFORE THE PETROLEUM WERE MARKETED AND PROCEEDS BEGAN TO FLOW TO THE COUNTRY.

6. PRESIDENT MENTIONED FORMER AMBASSADOR MULCAHYIN VERY WARM TERMS AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP THEY HAD DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S STAY HERE. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF AMBASSADOR VANCE'S ASSIGNMENT AS SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS. IN CLOSING MEETING, PRESIDENT SAID HIS DOOR WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO ME AND I RECIPROCATED BY SAYING THAT I WAS ALWAYS AT HIS DISPOSITION.
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